The path and formation of Kazakhstani policy in the development of legal culture and legal awareness of the population.

Abstract.
The development of legal culture is a crucial factor for shaping the behavioral patterns of the population, primarily influenced by state policies and strategic approaches. Legal education, as one of the methods for improving legal culture, can significantly contribute to its effective integration within the regional and cultural context.
This research aims to examine the concept of legal culture, its measurement, and the main factors shaping it. It further explores the historical background within the local context and the development of policies and strategies aimed at improving legal culture in Kazakhstan, analyzing comparative foreign practices and case studies. By applying qualitative and empirical analysis of legislative acts, legal reforms, and educational programs, the study investigates the development of legal culture and public legal awareness initiatives in Kazakhstan.
The research evaluates the effectiveness of Kazakhstani educational programs in promoting legal culture, as well as the level of public trust in government policies and citizens' awareness of their rights. The findings are expected to contribute to independent policy analysis and provide a critical review of the efficiency of Kazakhstan's legal reforms, identifying potential challenges, weaknesses, and implications for future policy considerations.

Key Words: *legal culture, legal awareness, legal education, legal policy of Kazakhstan, rule of law, legal development, state policy.*

Introduction.
Legal culture remains a main field for development in both international and national perspectives. Its improvement is important for building civil society, public order, the rule of law, and civic engagement, as well as for improving the overall legal awareness of society.
Legal education plays a key role in understanding and recognizing one's own human rights and responsibilities under the law. The growing interest of society in political and social matters usually corresponds to the level of legal awareness and culture. However, legal policies and strategies adopted in Kazakhstan are often misunderstood and have limited impact on the development of legal attitude, values and trust in state bodies; instead of being effectively implemented, they are frequently overlooked, mostly implementing formally and not systematically [1].
Formation of legal culture is one of the essential components in promoting legal literacy in Kazakhstan by educating children from middle school. These measures aim to provide students with legal knowledge to prevent violations and to shape the culture of society, contributing to the maintaining of a strong rule of law, open government and an active civil society within the country.

Research methods.
This research is based on the analysis of empirical and statistical data that reflect the current state of legal culture and legal awareness in Kazakhstan. The study includes a qualitative consideration of government legilative documents, policy papers, legal reforms, educational programs to analyse the development of state policy in this field. In addition, statistical data from national reports and surveys are applied in order to evaluate the effectiveness of legal education initiatives and public awareness campaigns.
Through this mixed-method approach, the research aims to identify key trends, challenges, and opportunities in promoting legal culture and improving legal awareness among the Kazakhstani

population. Comparative analysis with foreign practices is also applied to highlight potential approaches for strengthening Kazakhstan's legal culture and maintaining effectiveness its policy implementation.

Discussion and Results.

As noted by the legal scholar Ms. Ibrayeva [2], the term legal culture is defined by social mentality and the internal perception of legal reality, which together determine legal culture as a form of high-quality legal consciousness. She believes that legal culture comprises a set of legal phenomena that implement both primary and supplementary functions of law, and its formation depends on an individual's perception of ideology. A certain attitude and set of ideas usually shape legal culture.

According to Ibrayeva, several principles play a key role in forming legal culture are:

1. The principle of knowledge of laws;
2. The principle of integrity and human rationality;
3. The principle of freedom of action;
4. The principle of protecting one's rights.

She emphasizes that, despite Kazakhstan's long colonial history under Russia, the legal mentality and cultural identity of the Kazakh people have endured due to the strong preservation of national traditions. Referring to Friedman's idea of culture as a set of traditions, Ibrayeva notes that Kazakh legal culture survived because of its durability and adaptability. The laws introduced during the Kazakh Khanate such as Tauke Khan's laws and the judicial system established by the *biy* were highly respected and effectively integrated into society. These laws reflected the spiritual and moral values of the Kazakh people and aligned logically with the nomadic way of life [3].

So, based on the views of Ibrayeva and other scholars, he main indicators of legal culture in a state include:

- Forming developed legal institutions that ensure human rights and freedoms, their security, and confidence in the future;
- Recognition of law by the population as fair and necessary for maintaining the valid development of the state.

Ibrayeva further argues that the development of legal culture largely depends on the functioning of legal structures and governmental institutions, as these bodies shape the policies and practices that influence society's perception of law.

Similarly, the legal scholar N. L. Granat defines legal culture as a reflection of the past that shapes present practices and attitudes. In his view, legal norms and behavior formed in the past determine future legal conduct, either consciously or unconsciously [4]. Bondarev, in turn, interprets legal culture as a specifically historical phenomenon, as the degree of legal development of any society depends on its historical stage and the corresponding legal values it has adopted [5].

According to Friedman [6], a legal system consists of three components: structure, substance, and legal culture. He argues that legal culture can be studied on a general level, and that modern societies tend to converge around a distinctively modern legal culture [7](Friedman, 1994). Friedman classifies legal culture as the body of ideas, attitudes, values, and opinions that people hold with respect to law and the legal system [8] (Friedman, 1990:4). In his view, modern legal culture is characterized by six traits:

1. Rapid legal systems and societal change;
2. Density and ubiquity of law that lead to the legalization of social life;
3. Instrumental legitimacy of law as an instrument to achieve economic and social ends;
4. Paradoxical emphasis on rights and entitlements;
5. A culture of individualism, which explains the shift toward rights; and

6. Globalization and convergence of legal cultures

However, as he acknowledges that these distinctive traits mostly related to modern, Western legal systems. In another article, he mostly refers to Western legal culture as defined and determined, which can not be applicable to non-Western countries, as in this regard, it is challenging to find information. For instance, while information about the U.S. legal system is fully described , similar studies on non-Western legal cultures remain scarce [6].

Considering the conclusions of the aforementioned scholars, legal culture can be viewed as a set of values, attitudes, and behaviors shared by a specific segment of society. Its level of development varies depending on historical, social, and political contexts, as well as the degree to which legal policies are effectively integrated into society.

In Kazakhstan, one of the central obstacles to the advancement of legal culture lies in the limited scope of legal education and the insufficient alignment of state ideology with the actual needs of society. Policymaking often proceeds without adequate consideration of public interests, resulting in the adoption of laws that often different from the values and necessities of the majority. The persistent lack of public trust in political institutions (as for 2022, 61,5% trust for Government, 58,4% for Parliament) [9], combined with low electoral participation, further weakens civic engagement. As a result, many citizens remain unfamiliar with the political aims and profiles of their parliamentary representatives, which causes lack of trust to the authorities during the legislative process. However, public trust in law enforcement authorities, as illustrated in Figure 4, shows a steady upward trend among the population over the period analyzed by Bureau of National Statistics (2022-2025). Despite this increase, it can be seen that anti-corruption agencies, the judiciary and police still face significant challenges in ensuring transparency and effective performance in their work.

Figure 4. Level of public trust in law enforcement agencies and the judicial system (April–May 2025) [30]

State agency	Prosecutor's office	Police	Judicial system	Anti-corruption agencies
2022	37,5%	36,4%	-	24,4%
2023	57,1%	57,5%	55,2%	43,4%
2024	66%	61,6%	61,8%	50,9%
2025	65.2%	64.4%	60.5%	51%

In various attempts to constrain youth misconduct, it often reflects the deeper problem of an underdeveloped legal consciousness [10] within families and communities. The absence of consistent moral and legal guidance from parents and social environment contributes to the undermining the respect for legal norms. Consequently, young people's attitudes toward law are largely shaped by social surroundings rather than by informed legal education.

Freidman [6] struggled to evaluate link between the efficiency of certain law and creating the legal culture, it must be properly assessed by questioning how effective legal regulations should be for changing the social behavior of society and state. Meaning this, can state and society wellbeing developed by means of improvement the legal culture within a society, how it can affect to the creation of rule of law and civil society.

According to the WJP Rule of Law Index [11], an independent observing journal, the rule of law ranking is determined by separating different factors to assess countries, which include constraints on government powers, absence of corruption, open government, fundamental rights, order and security, regulatory enforcement, civil justice, and criminal justice. The chart

below illustrates the ranking and the slow overall index increase, which concludes Kazakhstan's ranking as 66th out of 143 countries (WJP, 2025). This can be clearly viewed as an indication of the level and development of legal culture in Kazakhstan. For each category of this index, development has remained stable and slow, with only small changes. Compared to 2020, only the categories of order and security, constraints on government powers, and regulatory enforcement have shown slight improvement, while other important categories such as fundamental rights, civil justice, and absence of corruption have remained unchanged over the five years up to 2025.

Another ranking, the Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) index on civil society participation (2023) [12], which assesses the political participation of society in elections, shows that Kazakhstan is ranked 129th out of 171 countries.

Figure 1.

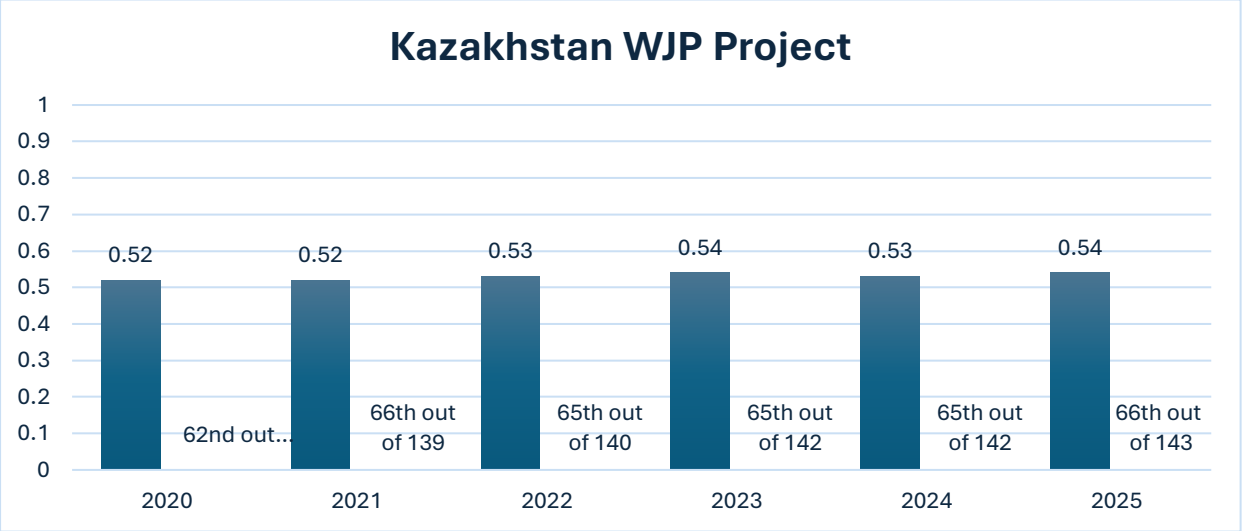
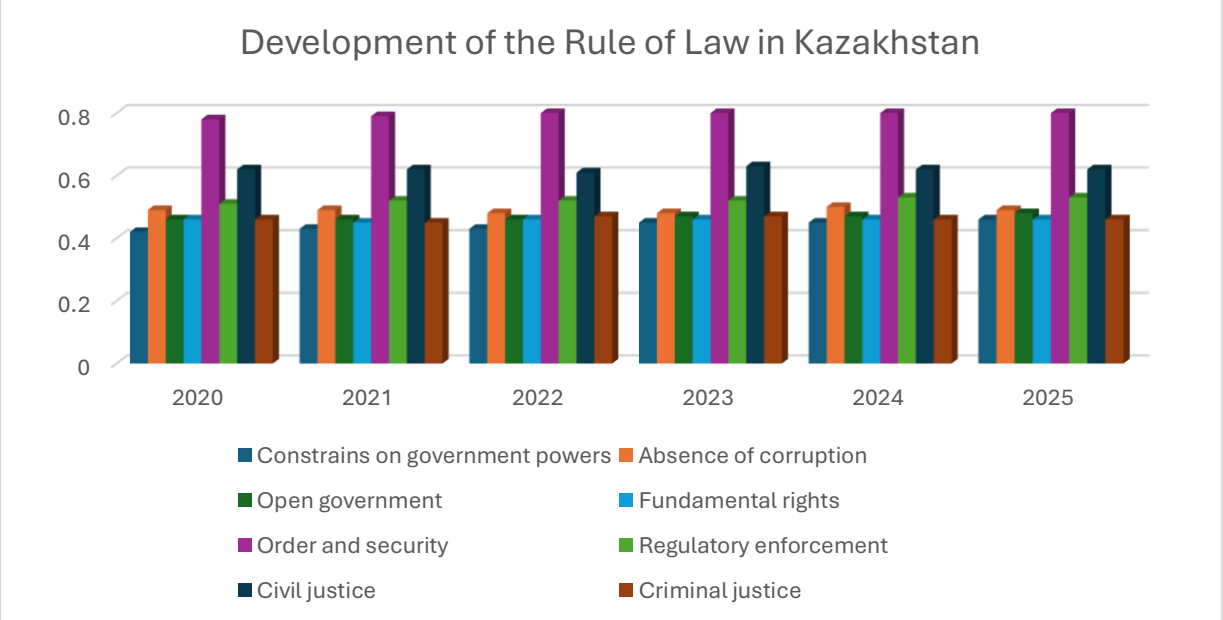


Figure 2.



As mentioned before, non-governmental organizations also play a key role in shaping legal culture. Statistics show that out of 23,335 registered organizations, only 18,204 are actively operating, according to the official e-government resource Egov.kz as of April 2023 [13].

Figure 3.

Quantities of NGO in Kazakhstan
7,78%
15,68%
20,05%
9,30%
3,93%
1,79%
3,60%
4,84%
1,68%
1,77%
3,41%
Support for socially vulnerable segments of the population
In the field of education, science, information, sports and physical culture
Protection of the rights, legitimate interests of citizens and organizations
Health protection of citizens healthy lifestyle promotion
Assistance in solving family-demographic and gender issues
Development of culture and art
Strengthening social harmony and national unity
Help for orphans, children from single-parent and large families
Protection of historical and cultural heritage
Environmental protection
NGOs working in other socially significant areas Areas of activity of operating NGOs

Assessing the real situation with rule-of-law in Kazakhstan, another independent source, Human Rights Watch observes systematic violations of the rights to peaceful assembly, freedom of association, and freedom of expression, reviewing several cases that clearly evidence illegitimate actions by the government in restricting public activities and human rights, such as the right to strike as part of labor rights [14]. Political and human rights activism has often been misjudged as extremist or terrorist activity. One of the cases - Marat Zhylanbaev who was sentenced to 7 years and his previous attempts to create political parties were declined - 21 times in total [15]. Indeed, Human Rights Watch, in this regard, observes the overly broad use of “extremism” and “terrorism” charges, even against those who have not participated in such activities.

It is important to consider such reports because there is an influence of legal culture on the socioeconomic well-being and stability of the country meaning that the culture clearly correlates with the rule of law index pursuant to the article written by Ukrainian scholars [16]. In particular, understanding how legal culture affects the rule of law index can lead to the significant policy changes - both in terms of reformation the rule-of-law institutions for legal traditions development. These traditions, in turn, reinforce a more stable society as well as higher economic growth [17].

Therefore, considering this, the Rule of Law Index, the number of active non-governmental organizations, and legal culture clearly correlate with each other. Noting that such rankings provided by official sources, they clearly reflect the outcomes of the policies and strategies that Kazakhstan has conducted previously.

Such findings indicate signs of a connection between a strong rule of law, an active society, and a higher level of legal culture. However, although registered institutions are necessary for shaping legal culture within a society, for some scholars, they are not sufficient for deep transformation, promotion, and development of legal culture. According to the article by Akhmetov, legal culture largely depends on legal literacy and the quality of lawmaking. It requires a long and complex process, and taking into account only the index and the number of social institutions is not enough [18].

Friedman, in this regard, also notes that, on issues affecting fundamental drives and values, the law may be weak and slow to change people's minds. However, this does not mean that the law cannot achieve particular results within a culture by making use of the tools that work best for that culture [6].

Having these indexes not only reflects the effectiveness of the rule of law in Kazakhstan, but also serves as a key indicator of the level of protection of basic human rights, legal awareness, and the expected legal behavior of local people. In a place where the law functions properly, the judicial system can be trusted by those who seek justice, and cooperation between the government and society can be achieved by those who can effectively communicate and discuss. Legal culture, legal awareness, and education are key to raising human rights advocacy among local people, establishing and maintaining a strong foundation for the protection of their basic rights, and shaping a policy environment where everyone is interested in creating policies that support quality education for future generations. Usually, low level of legal culture among the population is largely caused by the social situation of certain groups living below the poverty line as noted during its 67th session, the United Nations General Assembly. n the report by the Secretary-General, women are identified as a disproportionately affected group, facing poverty as well as limited legal literacy and access to legal protection [19]. As for Kazakhstan, according to the World Bank, the situation with poverty remains concerning. In 2021, 15.2% of Kazakhstan's population lived on less than $8.30 per day [20], but in 2025, the internationally recognized poverty line is $3.00 per day [21]. According to these statistics, 5.2% of people in Kazakhstan live on less than $3.00 per day - approximately 1 million people. Nationwide, in 2023, 1,035,620 people were below the poverty level [22]. Considering these indicators, economic risks remain high, which also affects the fluctuation of the prices and economic opportunities of local population. But Kazakhstan, as recognized by NGO's continues to achieve poverty reduction over the past two decades [23].

Considering this, it is important to notice that forming a legal culture mostly depends on the socio-economic conditions within a state, as indicated by several UN studies. In shaping the culture, policies and strategies should be effectively addressed to populations living in poverty, taking into account their needs for high-quality and rightly addressed education in school programs and legal awareness of basic human rights and responsibilities. This will help establish greater trust in government and social institutions, making the law more practical and enforceable within a different sector of society. All of these aspects form the complex nature of legal culture, which takes years to shape and to be effectively integrated.

The legal culture served as the foundation for morality and ethics in the Kazakh nation.It is mainly because laws were originally existed as customary law before being codified and enacted into the codes such as Zheti Zhargy. However, after historical shifts in political power and the significant influence of Russian colonialism, both the legal culture and the identity of the Kazakh people were deeply transformed, which affected the preservation of their traditional

legal heritage. As customary law was practiced in everyday life, and the same principles of lawfulness and justice were applied in that period, which is remarkable to observe. Cultural scholars emphasize that understanding the behavior and mindset of the Kazakh people in that period was essential to ensure that legal regulations were effectively incorporated into social life in practice [24]. After gaining independence and breaking away from eighty years of policies implemented under the Soviet Union, Kazakhstan faced the need to rebuild its legal system and policy with transforming legal consciousness of the society.

The period from 1991 to 2002 mainly focused on establishing the fundamental constitutional and institutional foundations for statehood. Before 2002, Kazakhstan was in the process of transitioning from a post-Soviet system towards building an independent state aiming at institutional reform [25].

Conception of legal policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the period from 2010 to 2020 [26]. During 2002–2010, Kazakhstan made a changes to the Constitution, forming the structure of governmental and power institutions. The country began developing a comprehensive system of legislative acts in the areas of criminal, civil, and administrative law. The legal policy during this period was clearly directed toward the establishment of strong state institutions and adopting new laws that would regulate the governance on the basis of the Constitution.
This was a Kazakhstani first legal reforms that were guided by fundamental principles such as humanism, lawfulness, and the priority of human rights and freedoms, in compliance with ratified international treaties. The government also emphasized the importance of enhancing political activism among citizens, but according to Human Rights Watch, these initiatives were not effectively implemented in practice [15].
This period saw the formation of basic laws and mechanisms in various sectors, including social, labor, economic, and administrative areas. Legal acts were also adopted to strengthen public service education, meritocracy and anti-corruption measures. Special attention was paid to criminal law reforms, including the qualification of offences, the humanization of criminal policy. Kazakhstan also participated in international treaties to combat terrorism, cybercrime, and environmental offences such as water pollution.
Overall, this period was the foundation for the creation of a democratic, secular, social, and rule-of-law state. But mostly, in terms of legal culure and awareness, mostly the policy was influencing to the development of judicial competences through improved legal education and training of judges *[26].*

Conception of legal policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the period from 2010 to 2020 [27]. Between 2010 and 2020, Kazakhstan achieved significant legislative progress, adopting numerous laws including 17 major branches of legislative acts. Mostly developments were related to the implementing legal regulations through codes and introducing the institution of the Commissioner for Human Rights.
Adoption of administrative procedural law, tax and customs law, the strategic use of natural resources, and ecological reforms were the particular emphasis. Civil law reforms were aimed at development social rights and modern social policy, while the judicial system was modernized in both civil and criminal procedures.
Reforms were also introduced in law enforcement agencies, including the creation of specialized judicial bodies. Legal aid systems were expanded to guarantee access to fair trials, and institutions such as attorney and notary services, strengthening the assistance to low-income citizens.

Important part is efforts were made to promote legal literacy and the legal awareness, especially among public officials and through media, internet platforms, and academic research. In this main focus was improving the and competence of legal professionals and state authorities.

Concepts of the legal policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the period up to 2030 [28].
The current period, 2020-2030, is characterized by the adoption of a new wave of legislative acts-17 laws and over 100 substitute regulatory documents.
A major priority is the restoration of the quality of legal education, which is recognized as a fundamental condition for the sustainable development of Kazakhstan's legal system. The legal profession requires highly qualified specialists who can be trained only by domestic higher educational institutions.
The high demand for legal education in the 1990s, combined with weakened state control and low salaries in the education sector, resulted in widespread corruption and a decline in quality. Therefore, the improvement of educational programs and the development of academic and methodological bases are now crucial.
Empirical studies show that low-quality policymaking and weak coordination among regulatory agencies often lead to inefficiency and excessive bureaucratic consultations. This highlights the need to strengthen policy coherence and implementation mechanisms.
Comparative analyses with the experiences of countries such as Singapore, Georgia, and Germany demonstrate the importance of a systematic approach to policy design. One key aspect of modern legal policy in developed countries is the introduction of regulatory impact assessment (RIA) mechanisms. These tools ensure clear policymaking, transparent management, and effective governance programs. Following the EU's recommendations, Kazakhstan is considering implementation and maintenance of RIA procedures by adopting diverse regulatory approaches.
The Constitution remains the core of Kazakhstan's legal system, while state management is now oriented toward a human-centered model supported by digital technologies. The transition to a digital economy and technological modernization plays a key role in improving public administration.
Recent reforms include the adoption of the Administrative Procedure and Process-Related Code, civil and tax law updates, international trade law alignment with WTO standards, and regulations on subsoil use and IT-related criminal offences. However, despite general progress, there is still a need for specific reforms concerning the qualification of criminal offences, law enforcement practices, criminal justice reform, and the concept of criminal liability.
Furthermore, measures must be taken to improve the system of educational institutions that train personnel for law enforcement agencies, including the adoption of relevant practices from developed countries. Continued specialization of the judicial system and anti-corruption remain priority areas for improvement.
This policy was the first emphasizing the importance of drafting legislative acts in both Kazakh and Russian languages. The problem existing in practice is - most acts are first prepared in Russian and only later translated into Kazakh, leading to inconsistencies in interpretation. To promote the Kazakh language in lawmaking, it is important to gradually introduce a legislative requirement to draft legal acts in Kazakh first, followed by translation into Russian.
Improving legal literacy and promoting lawful, socially active behavior among citizens must continue in accordance with the Constitution's core values.
Government bodies should consistently disseminate information about current legal policies and adopted normative acts using various tools, including media, educational publications, and public events. Legal services must be strengthened, as they play a strategic role in ensuring the integrity of national legislation. Modernization of legal education is also essential. Considering the growing role of artificial intelligence and digital technologies, greater attention should be

paid to retraining and professional development in the legal field. The introduction of academic integrity principles, stricter licensing procedures for law schools, and mandatory internships for graduates will help raise professional standards. Research institutes remain vital to the advancement of legal science and should receive further support to enhance their contribution to the state legal development.

Unlike other implemented policies, national planning considers the expected results which includes promotion of the sustainable economy and social development of Kazakhstan, developing model of governance based on transparency, accountability, and effectiveness, ensuring additionally the protection of human rights and freedoms. These efforts align with the long-term goals of the Kazakhstan-2050 Strategy, aiming to achieve a World Justice Project Rule of Law Index score of no less than 0.60.

Concept for Promoting the Ideology of Law and Order in Society for 2025–2030 (approved by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan)[29].

In 2024, the Concept for Promoting the Ideology of Law and Order in Society for 2025–2030 was adopted. Preliminary results show that only about 61.8–64.3% of citizens fully trust to the law enforcement institutions such as the police and courts. Kazakhstan has observed different approaches and practices from other countries in improving legal awareness over the decades and for the first time, a clear vision for the creation of a national legal culture has been introduced. One of the practical measures includes involving students in law clinics to provide free legal assistance to citizens and organizing public engagement events. The school subject "Basics of Law" has been reoriented towards solving practical cases. Other measures aim to increase public trust in government institutions, reduce offences, improve effective service delivery to citizens, and optimize the work of state bodies and law enforcement agencies.

Additional initiatives include mandatory courses on legal literacy (covering basic labor, administrative, criminal, and consumer rights) in the higher educational institutions, the activation of youth media platforms, and business-oriented legal education programs developed by Atameken for entrepreneurs. These initiatives collectively cover all sectors of society, from schools to public administration.

The analysis has shown that improving legal culture is a complex and gradual process requiring coordinated actions at different levels. According to the Concept, its progress will be assessed through measurable indicators such as:

1. Improvement of the open government system;
2. Reduction of the crime rate per 10,000 population;
3. Rule of Law Index targets (WJP): 2025 – 0.56; 2026 – 0.57; 2027 – 0.58; 2028 – 0.59; 2029 – 0.60;
4. Development of digital solutions to promote the ideology of law and order;
5. Prevention of offences and the creation of a safe environment for citizens.

These expected outcomes are defined by the local Committee on Legal Statistics and Special Records which takes into account organizations making an independent index and policy recommendations World Justice Project (WJP) and Expert Discussion Group (EDG).

By making independent analysis, the following issues were identified:

1. Well-recognized reports, such as OECD 2025 [1], emphasize a weak central monitoring system and the need to improve coordination among public institutions. A review of previous legal policies shows a clear lack of systematic goal-setting and effective implementation, as well as insufficient development of practical solutions that could be implemented and integrated into society. As a result, enforcement across ministries and akimats is inconsistent, decision-making is delayed, and government agencies often operate

in isolation. This leads to inconsistent application of laws, which the current legal policy identifies as a key issue.

2. Public trust in law enforcement and the judiciary needs to be increased because it poses a major obstacle to developing a genuine rule-of-law state. According to the 2024 Concept for Promoting the Ideology of Law and Order, only 61.8–64.3% of citizens fully trust the police and courts [29]. As it can be seen from UN Human Rights Committee (IHRC) [31] decisions as Kurtinbaeva v. Kazakhstan [32] and Arkhangelskiy v. Kazakhstan [33] highlights Kazakhstan's obligations and the injustices that contribute to this distrust. Despite conducting policy reforms, these cases show issues with the practical enforcement of fundamental rights, particularly freedom of expression, the right to peaceful assembly, and access to fair trial, as state authorities continue to sanction political participation and restrict legal protections in practice. Although Kazakhstan is bound by international treaties and has current policies aimed at optimizing criminal justice, but violations by law enforcement authorities continue, undermining policy objectives. The judicial system requires modernization, and extrimist charges to the political activists threaten the country's goal of becoming a "Listening State." Trust cannot be established where citizens face ongoing rights violations and law enforcement serves political dominance [31]

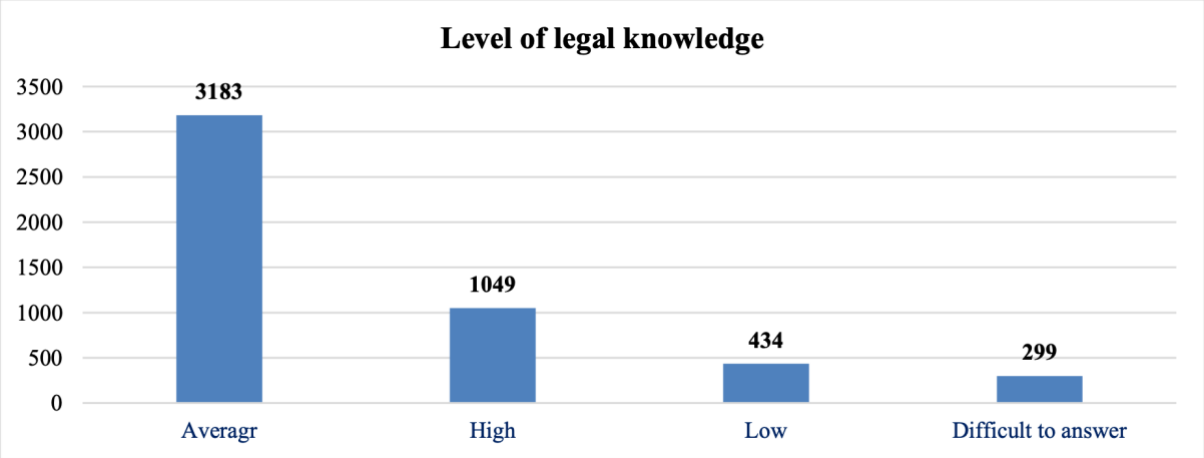
3. Although the number of students studying in Kazakh is increasing annually, usage of state language remains within a state agencies remains significant concern. Legislative drafting is inconsistent: legal acts are officially bilingual, but drafts are usually written in Russian and then translated into Kazakh. This causes differences in interpretation and undermines legal precision [28]. In disputes over tax or administrative provisions, the Russian text is often given precedence, marginalizing the Kazakh version and slowing efforts to establish Kazakh as a working language in lawmaking. In practice, judges mostly rely on the Russian version, as Kazakh legal language remains underused and poorly understood [39].

4. Kazakhstan ranks 88th out of 180 countries on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index. Despite long-standing anti-corruption policies, 17% of public service users reported paying a bribe in the past 12 months, as enforcement remains selective [34]. Corruption in the police, judiciary, and local administration undermines legal certainty, and citizens often avoid reporting due to fear of retaliation. The 2023 case of Maqsat Kozhabayev, former Deputy Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Agency, highlights selective enforcement: he was sentenced to 5.5 years for fraud while serving in the very agency tasked with fighting corruption [37]. The Anti-Corruption Agency notes that state medical clinics, hospitals, the police, land departments, public service centres, kindergartens, and universities remain vulnerable due to administrative barriers, discretionary regulations, and lack of transparency [36]. While Kazakhstan has made some progress through legal reforms and asset recovery, autocratic governance, weak judicial independence, and powerful elites allow corruption to persist. Significant progress requires comprehensive, transparent, and politically independent anti-corruption measures alongside broader democratic reform [35].

5. Low legal literacy among citizens hampers their ability to protect their rights or participate effectively in governance. Programs like "Basics of law" (school curriculum) and Atameken's business-oriented legal education represent positive steps. However, awareness campaigns often remain top-down and lack measurable outcomes. Surveys by the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Republic of Kazakhstan (2024) show that only 64% of citizens can rate their legal knowledge as average [38]. Improving legal literacy

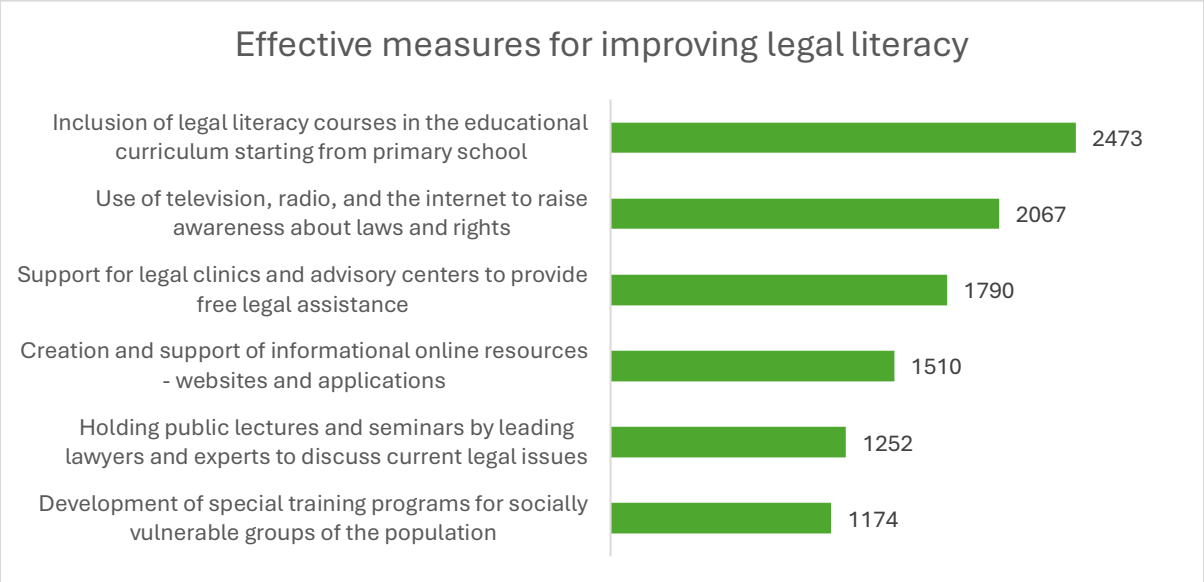
and providing accessible legal aid, particularly for vulnerable groups requires consistent and applicable to the regional context of Kazakhstan.

Figure 5. [38]



According to the report on the activities of the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2024, the following statistics reflect the survey of population on the proposing measures for improving legal literacy.

Figure 6. [38]


Effective measures for improving legal literacy
Inclusion of legal literacy courses in the educational curriculum starting from primary school
2473
Use of television, radio, and the internet to raise awareness about laws and rights
2067
Support for legal clinics and advisory centers to provide free legal assistance
1790
Creation and support of informational online resources - websites and applications
1510
Holding public lectures and seminars by leading lawyers and experts to discuss current legal issues
1252
Development of special training programs for socially vulnerable groups of the population
1174

Conclusion.

- Kazakhstan has made noticeable progress in improving the professionalism and competence of legal professionals and state authorities since independence.
- Legal reforms between 2002 and 2010 created a foundation for modern governance, but implementation often remains fragmented and inconsistent.
- Key challenges include weak coordination among ministries and local authorities, bureaucratic delays, and gaps between policy design and practical enforcement.
- Reports such as OECD 2025 emphasize the need for stronger monitoring, clear goal-setting, and effective mechanisms that can be applied consistently across all levels of government.

- Strengthening institutional capacity, targeted professional development, and practical implementation strategies are essential to increase public trust and ensure the rule of law.
- Continued reforms should focus on linking legal policy with real, enforceable outcomes to make Kazakhstan's legal system more efficient, transparent, and aligned with international standards.

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